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1998

Press Releases

10-1-1998

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "10/01/1998 - EIU Invites Potential Students and Families to Open House" (1998).
1998. 646.
https://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1998/646

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98-384

Oct. 1, 1998

For Immediate Release:

EIU INVITES POTENTIAL STUDENTS/FAMILIES TO OPEN HOUSES

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University is putting its best foot forward to showcase the campus to potential students in four separate open houses throughout the year.

High school students along with transfer students are encouraged to attend an Eastern open house on Monday, Oct. 12; Wednesday, Nov. 11; Thursday, Feb. 11 or Saturday, April 17. Registration begins at 9 a.m. each day in the university's Grand Ballroom (the University Ballroom on April 17), located in the University Union.

Dan Weber, open house coordinator and admissions counselor, said it is important to showcase Eastern and let young people and their families see what the campus is like.

"The average number of students will look at two colleges before making a decision," Weber said. "It is important for the students to see if they can see themselves at Eastern a year from now."

In the past, approximately 350 to 500 students have attended each open house at Eastern. This year the Admissions Office expects increases in the numbers of both high school students and transfer students who visit.

Those attending will have the opportunity to meet with faculty members from various academic departments on campus. Students will be able to tour the campus and

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OPEN HOUSES

residence halls. The tour also offers a free meal ticket for students and their families to sample food in one of several Dining Services facilities across campus.

In addition, some academic departments will be holding their own mini-open houses.

"This is an intimate opportunity for students to look at a facility and make that personal connection," Weber said. "Some departments will give tours, while others will let students go on a self-guided tour. This is a more quiet atmosphere."

Weber said since the April open house is on a Saturday, students won't be able to tour different academic departments on campus. Students can still meet faculty members in the morning session.

"The Saturday open house is a structured format. Since there are no afternoon sessions, students and their families are encouraged to stay on campus and attend events happening on campus," Weber said.

He said the Admissions Office picks a Saturday in the spring that has various events happening around the campus so students and their families can see what goes on at Eastern.

The Admissions Office, along with the Minority Affairs Office, also sponsors bus trips for students who live in the East St. Louis, Chicago and Peoria areas. Aronda Spearman, admissions counselor, said the bus tours are to help students without other transportation find a way to tour Eastern's campus. The trips cost the students nothing.

"This is the third year we are having the bus tours," Spearman said. "Fifty people come on each bus, and there is only one bus trip for each open house."

Weber said the purpose of the bus trips is to increase diversity on campus.

"A lot of students take advantage of these open houses," Weber said. "It is a great way for students to look around the campus and make their decision easier."

Anyone wishing detailed information on Eastern's open houses should contact the Admissions Office at (217) 581-2223 or 1(800) 252-5711, or visit Eastern's website: <http://www.eiu.edu>